imports of steel pipes and tubes and sulfatiilic acid from India. Antidumping anions have been initiated by the US on imports of steel wire, rods and stainless steel flanges from India. The results of anti-dumping investigations in these cases have not yet been notified by the US authorities. The European Community has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of Oxalic Acid, Polyester Yam, and Polyester Synthetic Fibres from India. The European Community has initiated a review investigation concerning import of Polyester Yam, from India.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty affects the Competitiveness of products subject to the duty *vis-a-vis* the domestic industry.

The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975 was amended in October, 1982 to enable the Government to take measures against dumped imports by levying anti-dumping duties. The Act empowers Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped imports are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before such a duty can be imposed, the Authority designated by the Government has to make a finding on the existence of dumping and injury. The Designated Authority normally initiates an investigation only upon receipt of a written request by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry. The Customs Tarriff rules require the Designated Authority to satisfy itself that it has sufficient *prima facie,* evidence of dumping injury lo domestic industry and of a causa! link between the dumped imports and the alleged injury before it decides to initiate an investigation.

The Designated Authority after deciding to initiate an investigation, is required to allow the interested parties or Governments an opportunity to represent their views in writing and on sufficient cause, orally. On completion of investigation, the Designated Authority submits its findings as to the export price, normal value and margin of dumping and injury to domestic industry to the Central Government. The Central Government, on the basis of the findings takes a decision on the imposition of antidumping duties.

The Tax Reforms Committee, Chaired by Prof. Raja J. Chelliah while appreciating that the anti-dumping investigation, by their very nature, are time consuming, has suggested that the time limit for giving final findings from the date of initiating of an investigation, could be reduced to six months and the time limit for imposition of duty be reduced from six months to three months of publication of final findings. Every endeavour is made to expedite completion of anti-dumping investigation.

Declioe in Country's Trade Deficit

542. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's trade deficit during 1992-93 is likely to fall short of the anticipated level and that the country's exports have not shown any marked rise;

(b) if so, what is the overall trade deficit anticipated during 1992-93 against the anticipated target stating the reasons for shortfall in the anticipated trade figures, .the extent of (in terms of foreign exchange) exports and imports during 1992-93, the countries where the Indian exports fell short of the target; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to bridge the trade deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) India's exports during 1992-93 are provisionally estimated at US S. 18420 million, imports at US S. .21725 million and trade deficit at US S. 3305 million which is higher than trade deficit of US S. 1610 million in 1991-92 but lower than trade dificit of US 1 5932 milion in 1990-91. Against a target of 12.8% increase in exports in 1992-93, actual achievement is provisionally estimated at 3.61%, in US dollar terms.

The shortfall in achievement is primarily due to decline in experts to former LPA countries and recession in industrially advanced countries.

(c) To bridge the trade deficit the strategy is to increase exports, for which Govt, have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which include provisions, such as, exports linked imports, reduction of import licenssing, strengthening export incentives, removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedure and pruning of negative

list of exports. In 1993-94 Budget, the system of market determined unified exchange rate has been introduced, custom and excise duties on raw meterials and capital goods and interest rate on rupee export credit has been reduced. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as Extreme Focus Sectors for a special export thrust abroad. The EXIM Policy 1992—97 has been amended to include a scheme of export oriented units for agriculture and allied products. The State Governments are also being involved in export promotion efforts.

Pepper Production

543. SHRI PASUMPONTHA KIRIUTINAN SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased *to* state :

(a) what has been the world pepper production during the current year, country-wise, figures;

(b) what is the present pepper price in the world market:

(c) what had been our pepper production during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) what has been our internal consumption of pepper during this period, year-wise;

(e) the quantity of pepper exported by Government during this period, year-wise, figures, what had been the balance of stock left during this period both with farmers and merchants; and

(f) whether any policy has been formulated to help pepper farmers: if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) .

(a) World Pepper production during 1993 is given below:—

Country	Production (MT)
Brazil	23,000
India	55,000
Indonesia	37,500
Malaysia	20,000
Thailand	9,000
Sri Lanka	3,400

(*Source* : International Pepper Community).

(b) Current prices (July, 1993) quoted by major producing countries in the New York market are:

Indonesia	56 Cents/lb
Malaysia	56 Cents/lb
Brazil	56 Cents/lb

All Spot Prices

(*Source.* AA SAYIA & CO. INC. REPORT)

(c) All India production of pepper during the Tear 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)
1989-90	55.2
1990-9i	48.0
1991-92	42.7

(d) No specific details are available for internal consumption. However, approximate internal consumption of pepper is estimated to be around 30,000 MT.

(e) Export of pepper during the last three years is as under :—

Yea	Quantity (MT)	Value (*R*s. Crores)
1990-91	29,985	102.40 74.21
1991-92 (P)		
20.665 1992-93 (E)		
25.4S0		

(P) Provisional (E) Estimated.

It is not possible to correctly estimate the stock held by farmers and traders. However, trade estimates indicate that stock with traders/ farmers is approximately around 10,000 — 12,000 MT during the current year.

(f) A number of measures have been taken by the Government with a view to help pepper farmers. These are :—

(i) Government approved Market Intervention Scheme for Black Pepper under which a total quantity of 3000 MT of Black Pepper has been procured by NAFED and Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation at Market Intervention Price of Rs. 33 per kg. (ii) As a short term measure, the Govein-